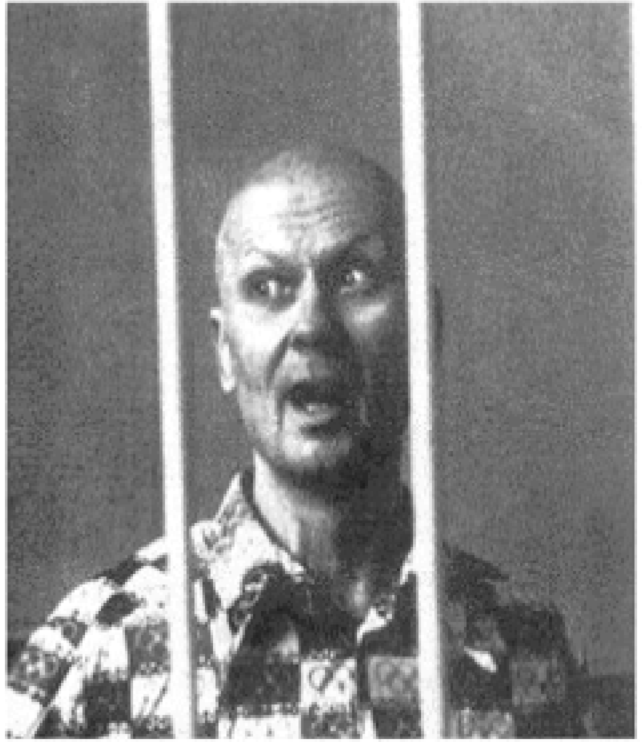
ANDREI CHIKATILO: THE BUTCHER OF ROSTOV

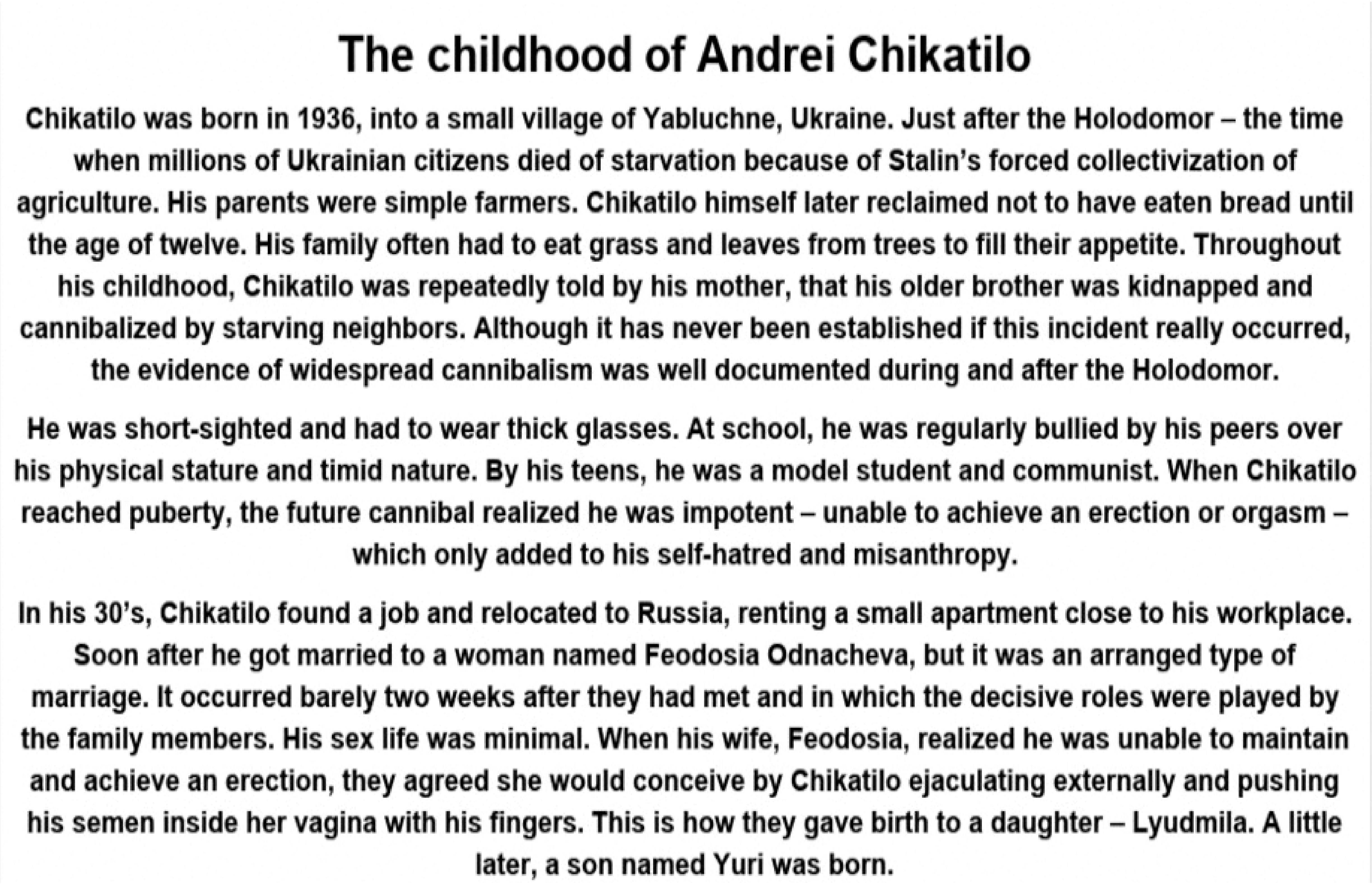
Cannibal Andrei Chikatilo: The Butcher of Rostov

- **When Chikatilo was arrested, rotten human flesh in his digestion emitted a disturbing smell. He later reclaimed not to have eaten bread until the age of twelve and claimed his family had to eat grass and leaves from trees to fill their appetite.**
- **As a result of the investigation his killing spree, an astonishing 1000 unrelated crimes, including 95 murders and 245 rapes, were solved.**



"I am a mistake of nature, a mad beast." - Andre Romanovich Chikatilo, during his trial

Andrei Romanovich Chikatilo was born on 16th October 1936 in Yablochnoye, a village in the heart of rural Ukraine, within the USSR. During the 1930s, the Ukraine was known as the “Breadbasket” of the Soviet Union, and the policies of communism, realised through Stalin’s enforcement of agricultural collectivisation, caused widespread hardship within the country, leading eventually to a famine that decimated the population. At the time of his birth, the effects of the famine were still widely felt, and his early childhood was influenced by the deprivation, made worse still when the USSR entered the war against Germany, causing the Ukraine to be the subject of sustained bombing raids. In addition to the external hardships, Chikatilo is believed to have suffered from hydrocephalus (or water on the brain) at birth, which caused him genital-urinary tract problems later in life, including bed-wetting into his late adolescence and, later, the inability to sustain an erection, although he was able to ejaculate. His home life



The childhood of Andrei Chikatilo

Chikatilo was born in 1936, into a small village of Yabluchne, Ukraine. Just after the Holodomor – the time when millions of Ukrainian citizens died of starvation because of Stalin's forced collectivization of agriculture. His parents were simple farmers. Chikatilo himself later reclaimed not to have eaten bread until the age of twelve. His family often had to eat grass and leaves from trees to fill their appetite. Throughout his childhood, Chikatilo was repeatedly told by his mother, that his older brother was kidnapped and cannibalized by starving neighbors. Although it has never been established if this incident really occurred, the evidence of widespread cannibalism was well documented during and after the Holodomor.

He was short-sighted and had to wear thick glasses. At school, he was regularly bullied by his peers over his physical stature and timid nature. By his teens, he was a model student and communist. When Chikatilo reached puberty, the future cannibal realized he was impotent – unable to achieve an erection or orgasm – which only added to his self-hatred and misanthropy.

In his 30's, Chikatilo found a job and relocated to Russia, renting a small apartment close to his workplace. Soon after he got married to a woman named Feodosia Odnacheva, but it was an arranged type of marriage. It occurred barely two weeks after they had met and in which the decisive roles were played by the family members. His sex life was minimal. When his wife, Feodosia, realized he was unable to maintain and achieve an erection, they agreed she would conceive by Chikatilo ejaculating externally and pushing his semen inside her vagina with his fingers. This is how they gave birth to a daughter – Lyudmila. A little later, a son named Yuri was born.

During the next 12 years, he killed, mutilated, and cannibalized at least 53 victims. He was arrested but was never charged. At least one innocent person was convicted and executed for the murders he had committed. As a result of the investigation into his killings, an astonishing 1000 unrelated crimes, including 95 murders and 245 rapes, were solved.

Trial and Aftermath

Andrei Chikatilo re-enacting one of his murders in courtroom.

The whole trial was a farce. Chikatilo was inside a cage. This was to protect him from the angry family members of the victims, who shouted profanities at him. Some family members even fainted and some cried. The defendant gave dismissive replies. Some say he acted as if he was insane. Although psychiatric evaluation determined he was suffering from borderline personality disorder with sadistic features, he was declared legally sane and competent to stand trial. He was sentenced to death by shooting – a single bullet to his head.

1930's	0	Older Brother Stephan was abducted and cannibalized by town people.
10/16/1936	0	Born in Yablochnoye Ukraine with water on the brain.
1941	5	Mother told him about his brother.
1942-1943	7	Father left to fight in the war.
1947-1948	11-12	Was at the height of the famine. He and his sister would eat grass and leaves.
1948	12	Ate bread for the first time.
1949	13	Would pray to have his father back from war; when his father came back later that year, he was sick with tuberculosis and would spit up blood and would moan and lay on the bed
1950	14	Tried to be better than all his classmates. Participated in literary and musical events and became editor of the schools newspaper.
1951	15	Completed 7th grade
1952	16	Went to work at a brick factory in the summer time, had part of a wall fall on him
1953	17	Cried when Stalin died, wanted to go to Moscow and believed that communism would soon conquer the world; That summer he worked on the farm and was using a horse-drawn rake for harvesting and it fell on him
1954	18	Finished the 10th grade; he applied for Moscow University to study law, failed his entry exam and wasn't accepted into the University- he was convinced that he didn't get in because of his fathers war record
1960	24	Worked at a telephone engineer
1963	27	Met and married his wife Fayina (3 years younger than him)
1965	29	Had his first child; Lyudmilla
1969	33	Has his second and last child son Yuri
1971	35	Enrolled in a Rostov Liberal Arts University, got a degree in literature and philology when he graduated he became a teacher
4/1973	37	Tried to rape; didn't get punished for it Anna-one of his students, asked her to stay after school and then continued to beat her with ruler; all the while getting aroused, ejaculated in his pants

7/1983	47	Ira Dunenkova, 13, found stabbed to death in Aviators' Park; This murder stands out because he knew her and she had even been to his house. Her older sister was one whom Chikatilo had past sexual relations with and would sometimes bring alone Ira. Lyuda Kutsyuba, 24, a tramp, was killed near a small railway stop just outside Shakhti. She wasn't found till 9 months later.
8/1983	47	Igor Gudkov, 7, found slaughtered in Aviators' Park and Valya Chuchulina, 22, brutality stabbed in late summer
10/27/1983	48	Vera Shevkun, 19, prostitute killed on the edge of Shakhti
12/27/1983	48	Sergei Markov, 14, school boy murdered on a piece of wasteland about a mile north of the nearby town of Novorherkassk.
1/10/1984	48	Natalya Shalapinina, 17, tramp and an alcoholic, murdered in Aviators' Park and in terrible condition. Her body was covered in stab wounds and nose and upper lip had been cut off – as had one of the fingers of her left hand.
2/22/1984	48	Formal charges were made against Chikatilo for theft of state property. It was suggested in no uncertain terms to him that it would be a good idea if he found himself a new job. Marta Ryabyenko, 44, was found brutality murdered; She was a tramp seeking oblivion in sex and alcohol.
2/27/1984	48	Police arrest a man not far from the scene of the crime who is slightly mentally slow. He was charged with the two killings and he confessed, but late withdrew his claim insisting that it has been obtained under duress. But it was too late. He was already in jail. Later on he killed by firing squad.
3/27/1984	48	Ptashniko, 10, He was found stabbed to death with over 54 stab wounds.
5/1984	48	Tanya Petrosyan and Chikatilo randomly see each other by chance and go on a picnic together with Tanya's daughter, Sveta. Tanya mocks Chikatilo when he cannot get an erection and stabbed Tanya hard in the side of the head and then began hitting her with a hammer. Chikatilo then runs after Tanya's young daughter and stabs her in the head as well and then hammered her to death and then severed her head off.

5-6/1984	48	Yelena Bakulina, 22, Anna Lemesheva, 19, and Dima Illarionov, 13, all found murdered that spring. Fayina; Chikatilo's wife, makes him seek psychiatric help for what she believed was his lack of sexual drive.
7/19/1984	48	Anna Lemesheva, 19, a prostitute, he stabbed her and cut out her uterus and threw it into the nearby bushes.
8/1984	48	August 1, 1984: Chikatilo becomes head of a department at a plant making heavy industrial machinery. August 2, 1984: Natasha Golosovskaya, 16, Chikatilo murdered her by throwing himself on her, ripping off her clothes, and cutting her with a knife. August 5, 1984: Lyuda Alekseyeva, 17, murdered in a particularly grisly way. He planted the knife at points in her body where it would not kill her so he could see her suffer, but eventually died. He covered her body and left. August 8-15, 1984: Two women are murdered. The first was never identified and her head was never found. The second, Akmaral Seidalieva, 12, had run away from home and was stabbed to death. August 18, 1984: Sasha Chepel, 11, found so badly mutilated that his father passed out when he saw his son. Sasha's eyes had been gouged out.
9/1984	48	September 6, 1984: Irina Luchinskaya, 24, Chikatilo punched her hard and drew his knife from the bag and stabbed her to death. September 8, 1984: Sveta Tsana, 22, was found murdered in Aviators' Park by being brutally stabbed.
10/8/1984	48	Yuri Velikanov, the head of the criminal department of the Russian Public Prosecutor's Office, signed the necessary order to link all of the cases and dropped murder charges against the existing suspects.
12/12/1984	48	Chikalito appeared in the People's Court of the Leninsk Region of the city of Shakhti charged with theft. He was found guilty and given a sentence of one year of corrective labor. Little did they know that at this time he had already killed 31 people.

Early 1985	49	Natalia Pokhlistova, 18, a mentally subnormal girl who was homeless. Chikalito stabbed her 38 times before strangling her to death.
8/27/1985	49	Irina Gulyayeva, 18, a mentally subnormal girl who had no friends and no place to stay. Chikatilo killed her and left her naked body about 500 yards from the bus stop he found her at.
Early 1987	51	Irina Gulyayeva, 18, a mentally subnormal girl who had no friends and no place to stay. Chikatilo killed her and left her naked body about 500 yards from the bus stop he found her at.
7/29/1987	51	Ivan Bilovetski, 12, a smart outgoing little boy with a bright future. He was found mutilated and his stomach was ripped open and mud was stuffed in his mouth so that he would not cry out.
4/6/1988	52	Police found the body of an unknown woman who appeared to have been slaughtered two to five days earlier.
5/14/1988	52	Voronko, 9, found cut up and stabbed to death.
7/14/1988	52	Zhenya Muratov, 15, found brutality stabbed and left under a pile of leaves.
1/11/1989	53	Tatyana Ryzhova, Chikalito took her to his daughter's house that she no longer lived in and pushed her down on the floor and tried to have sex with her. She began mocking him for not being able to get an erection, so he pulled out a folding knife and stabbed her in the mouth. After her had died, he cut off her head and legs and cut her into pieces and carried her on a sled to some near by woods and left her.
5/11/1989	53	Sasha Dyakonov, was murdered the day after his 8th birthday. He was stabbed to death and was left in the bushes – 20 yards from the road.
Summer 1989	53	Chikatilo killed four more times that summer, three of which were little boys.
1989	53	Lyosha Moiseyev, 10, was murdered by Chikatilo and not found for 66 days.

8/1989	53	Yelena Varga, 19, found murdered in some abandon woods. August 29, 1989: Alyosha Khobotov, 10, Chikatilo hit him over the head, but off his tongue and cut off his sexual organs. He then threw his body in a put and covered it with dirt.
1/14/1990	54	Kravchenko, 11, found stabbed to death and his genitals were cut off.
3/7/1990	54	Yaroslav Makarov, 10, Chikatilo jumped on the boy and began to assault him by an attempt to have oral sex with the boy. In ended in an orgy of hacking and stabbing and Chikatilo cut off the tip of the boys tongue and genitals. Both were tossed into the gardens.
4/4/1990	54	Lyubov Zuyeva, a mentally retarded woman whom Chikatilo had met on the train. He murdered her in the woods and she was not found until her body was almost completely decomposed.
7/1990	54	Vitya Petrov, 13, Chikatilo killed the boy once he got him to a deserted spot.
8/14/1990	54	Ivan Fomin, 11, was found slaughtered on a river beach – he had forty five different knife wounds.
10/17/1990	55	Vadim Gromov, 16, mentally handicapped from birth, he was persuaded to follow Chikatilo into the woods and then Chikatilo pinned him and began to sexually molest him. He tied the boys hands and bit off the tip of the boys tongue and began to strike him in the head and stomach with his knife. After he had died, Chikatilo cut off his genitals and tossed them away into the undergrowth.
11/03/1990	55	Vitya Tishchenko, 16, was persuaded to leave a train station with Chikatilo and then found stabbed to death only a short distance from the station, this is the one time that he wasn’t being patrolled/watched.
11/13/1990	55	Svetlana Korostik, 22, Officers found the naked remains of a young blond woman half buried under a pile of leaves. She was horribly mutilated and had multiple knife wounds to the vital organs, including stabbing of the stomach and amputation of the genitals and tongue.

11/29/1990	55	Chikatilo admitted for the first time to authorities that he had killed.
1/18/1991	55	Chikatilo described the various methods he had used to pick up his victims.
Summer 1991	55	Investigators had almost completed their case against Chikatilo. They believed that they had a clear and conclusive case of 53 killings.
8/1991	55	Chikatilo was taken to experts at Moscow's Serbsky psychiatric institute to undergo a detailed analysis of whether of not he was insane. The doctors' final conclusion was clear and unequivocal. If sanity is the ability to be in control of one's own actions, then Chikatilo was undoubtedly sane.
4/14/1992	56	Chikatilo's trial began.
10/15/1992	56	Chikatilo was found guilty of 52 counts of murder (the day before his birthday).
2/14/1994	58	Chikatilo dies by firing squad; gunshot to the back of the head.

General Information	
Sex	Male
Race	Russian/ White/Ukrainian
Number of victims	52+
Country where killing occurred	Russia
States where killing occurred	
Cities where killing occurred	Rostov and other places
Type of killer	Missionary/Unorganized
Height	Between 5'10" and 6-feet tall
Childhood Information	
Date of birth	October 16, 1936
Location	Yablochnoye, Ukraine
Birth order	2nd child of 3
Number of siblings	2
XYY?	No but Chikatilo's blood was Type A, but his sperm was type AB, this was a one in a million chance.

Raised by	Mother; his father went to war
Birth category	Middle child
Parent's marital status	Married
Family event	
Age of family event	
Problems in school?	No
Teased while in school?	Yes, was bullied and called names
Physically attractive?	No
Physical defect?	Yes he was nearsighted but was too afraid/embarrassed to tell anyone about it
Speech defect?	No
Head injury?	Lesions on brain and water on the brain at time of birth
Physically abused?	Yes
Psychologically abused?	Chikatilo was always mocked for his impotence and that people always teased him all through his life
Sexually abused?	No
Father's occupation	Peasant and laborer
Age of first sexual experience	18, jumped on a girl who was 13, wrestled her to the ground and ejaculated as the girl struggled in his grasp.
Age when first had intercourse	19; he tried twice but his attempts we unsuccessful
Mother's occupation	Homemaker and Laborer
Father abused drugs/alcohol	No
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	No
Cognitive Ability	
Highest grade in school	College
Highest degree	Bachelor's degree in Literature and Philology
Grades in school	Good

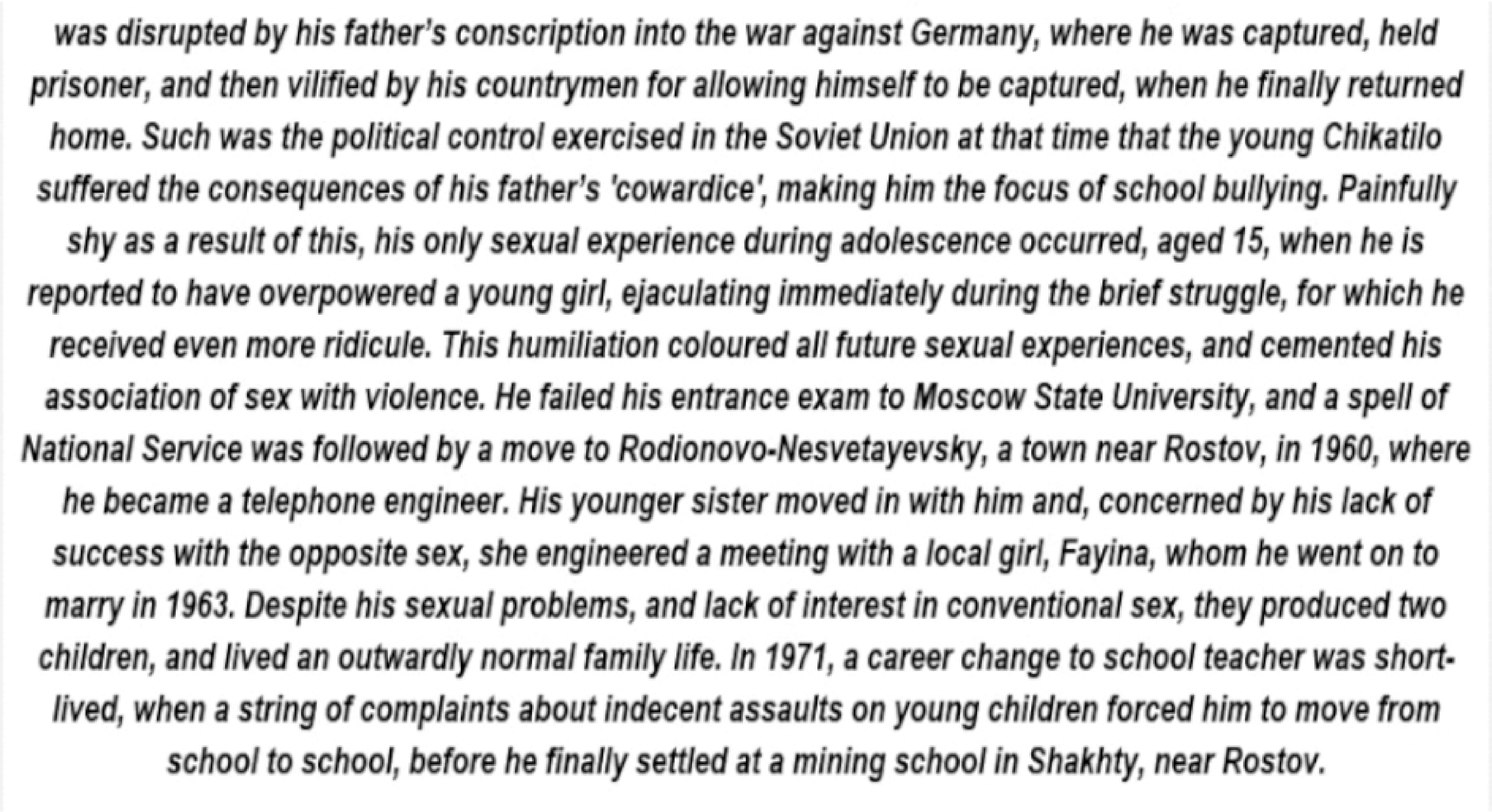
	productive/impotent sex life
Time in forensic hospital?	Yes when he was going through his trial
Diagnosis	Sane even though the court thought he was insane
Killer Criminal History	
Committed previous crimes?	Yes he committed other crimes than the killings
Spend time in jail?	Yes but not for the 52+ killings it was for other crimes
Spend time in prison?	No
Killed prior to series? Age?	No
Serial Killing	
Number of victims	52 +
Victim type	Young women, and children
Killer age at start of series	42
Date of first kill in series	December 22, 1978
Date of final kill in series	November 6, 1990
Gender of victims	Male and Female
Race of victims	White and Russian
Age of victims	7- adult
Type of victim	Young women, prostitutes, alcoholics, mentally disturbed women and children(boys and girls) and teenagers
Method of killing	Stabbing and Strangling
Weapon	Yes brought with him; knives (had 23)
Was gun used?	No
Type	n/a
Did killer have a partner?	No
Name of partner	n/a
Sex of partner	n/a

Andrei Chikatilo, also known as the Butcher of Rostov and the Rostov Ripper, was one of the most notorious serial killers in the Soviet Union, maybe even the most prolific in modern history.

The monster had an appetite for murder and human flesh. He was a child molester who enjoyed mutilating and eating his victims. When arrested, policemen noted a disturbing odor emitting from the pores of his skin, which was caused by the rotten human flesh in his digestion.

Andrei Chikatilo at court

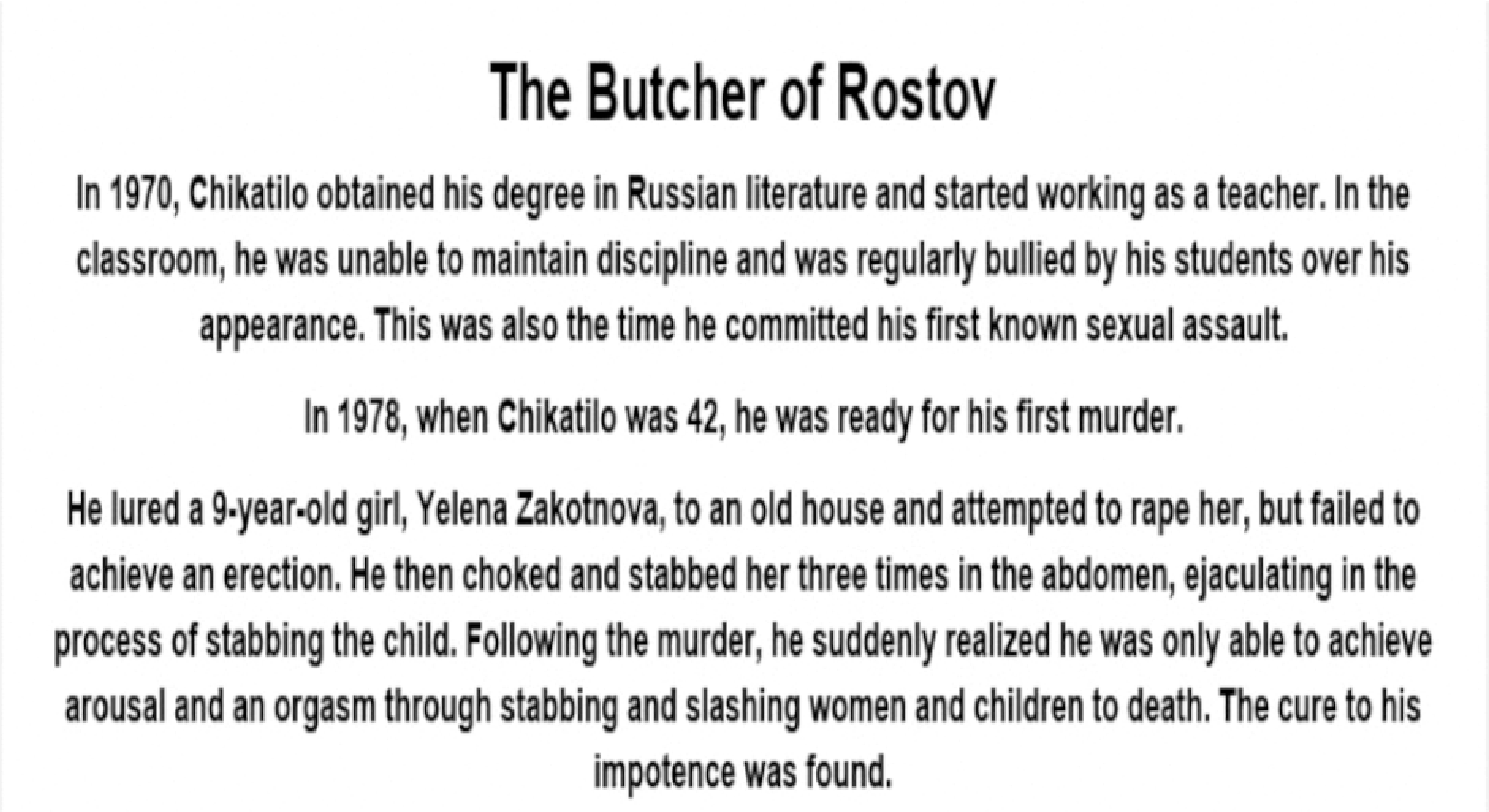
Andrei Chikatilo confessed to 56 murders when he was eventually caught in 1990. The brutal killer preyed on children and young vagrants, eating intimate parts of their bodies.



was disrupted by his father's conscription into the war against Germany, where he was captured, held prisoner, and then vilified by his countrymen for allowing himself to be captured, when he finally returned home. Such was the political control exercised in the Soviet Union at that time that the young Chikatilo suffered the consequences of his father's 'cowardice', making him the focus of school bullying. Painfully shy as a result of this, his only sexual experience during adolescence occurred, aged 15, when he is reported to have overpowered a young girl, ejaculating immediately during the brief struggle, for which he received even more ridicule. This humiliation coloured all future sexual experiences, and cemented his association of sex with violence. He failed his entrance exam to Moscow State University, and a spell of National Service was followed by a move to Rodionovo-Nesvetayevsky, a town near Rostov, in 1960, where he became a telephone engineer. His younger sister moved in with him and, concerned by his lack of success with the opposite sex, she engineered a meeting with a local girl, Fayina, whom he went on to marry in 1963. Despite his sexual problems, and lack of interest in conventional sex, they produced two children, and lived an outwardly normal family life. In 1971, a career change to school teacher was short-lived, when a string of complaints about indecent assaults on young children forced him to move from school to school, before he finally settled at a mining school in Shakhty, near Rostov.

Andrei Chikatilo and his family

Chikatilo’s life was filled with poverty, ridicule, hunger, and war.



The Butcher of Rostov

In 1970, Chikatilo obtained his degree in Russian literature and started working as a teacher. In the classroom, he was unable to maintain discipline and was regularly bullied by his students over his appearance. This was also the time he committed his first known sexual assault.

In 1978, when Chikatilo was 42, he was ready for his first murder.

He lured a 9-year-old girl, Yelena Zakotnova, to an old house and attempted to rape her, but failed to achieve an erection. He then choked and stabbed her three times in the abdomen, ejaculating in the process of stabbing the child. Following the murder, he suddenly realized he was only able to achieve arousal and an orgasm through stabbing and slashing women and children to death. The cure to his impotence was found.

Yelena Zakotnova, the first victim of Andrei Chikatilo

The next victim was 17-year-old Larisa Tkachenko, who was similarly lured to a remote area. The poor girl was strangled to death. Later, she was mutilated with teeth and a stick. A nipple was also torn from her body.

Chikatilo had developed the taste for human flesh and his murder spree started.

1/1974	38	Gets “let go” from teaching job
4/1978	41	Chikatilo meets Tanya Petrosyan and they become lovers. Their relationship is short due to Chikatilo’s impotence. Both were married and neither spouse found out.
9/1978	41	Got laid off again, found new job as a warden at a school, his wife wanted to keep tabs on him and so she also got hired on staff to watch over him
12/22/1978	42	Killed his first victim. Lena Zakotnova 9 year old girl; lured her into the second house, raped and strangled her, he stabbed her 3 times in the stomach and then he threw her in a frozen stream. Later the police had him in custody as a suspect but then another guy was tried and convicted for the crime. Molested 3 six year old girls
9/3/1981	45	Larisa Tkachenko- 17 years old; filled her mouth with dirt, strangled her and bit off and ate her nipple
6/12/1982	46	Lyuba Biryuk- 13 years old, Lyuba Biryuk; stabbed her repeatedly and wounded her eyes, killed her and then rapped the corpse and then threw her and stuff into the woods.
7/25/1982	46	Lyuba Volobuyeva, 14, savagely killed during Chikatilo’s business trip to the southern region of Krasnodar
8/13/1982	46	Oleg Pozhidayev, 9, brutality murdered on another business trip
8/16/1982	46	Olya Kuprina, 16, brutality murdered back in the Rostov region
9/1982	46	Ira Karabelnikova and Sergei Kuzmin, within 9 days and a mile of each other, found stabbed to death
12/11/1982	47	Olya Stalmachenok, 10, found brutality tortured and murdered
6/1983	47	Laura Sarkisyan, 15, murdered, but body was never found; Police learned of this case through Chikatilo’s confessions

Work History	
Served in the military?	Yes for 3 years
Branch	Army
Type of discharge	Completed his term
Saw combat duty	No
Killed enemy during service?	No
Applied for job as a cop?	No
Worked in law enforcement?	No
Fired from jobs?	Yes, 3-5 teaching jobs (1 asked to resign or be fired)
Types of jobs worked	Teacher, Traveling sales, Telephone engineer
Employment status during series	Traveling Salesman
Relationships	
Sexual preference	Hetero but some sources say homo
Marital status	Married
Number of children	2; daughter Lyudmilla and son Yuri
Lives with his children	Yes
Living with	Spouse and children
Triad	
Animal torture	No
Fire setting	No
Bed wetting	Yes, mother would beat and humiliate him for it
Killer Psychological Information	
Abused drugs?	No
Abused alcohol?	No
Been to a psychologist?	Yes his wife made him go get help with his un-

Type of serial killer	Disorganized Serial Killer and missionary because he began to see himself not as a killer but a cleanser of society (The Red Ripper pg 75)
How close did killer live?	A lot of his killing were on trips and at various train stations all over Russia, very few were committed close to his home
Location of first contact	Streets, Buses and Train stations
Location of killing	All in secluded areas off of streets and side roads
Killing occurred in home of victim?	No
Killing occurred in home of killer?	Yes; bought a second house for sex and then killed the girls and threw the bodies in the woods and rivers
Victim abducted or killed at contact?	Yes
Behavior During Crimes	
Rape?	Yes
Tortured victims?	Yes
Stalked victims?	No
Overkill?	Yes
Quick & efficient?	Sometimes but sometimes he would tortured the victim for a while and kept them alive.
Used blindfold?	Yes, so if the bodies were found the police could not see who the killer was; because some say that the imprint of the killer stays on the eyes when you die.
Bound the victims?	Yes
After Death Behavior	
Sex with the body?	Yes
Mutilated body?	Yes

Took totem – personal item	No, but he would take their clothes and or their purses and throw them deeper into the woods or somewhere around the victim.
Robbed victim or location	No
Disposal of Body	
Left at scene, no attempt to hide	No he would always try to hide or cover up the body
Left at scene, hidden	Yes
Left at scene, buried	Yes, he only buried a couple of them
Moved, no attempt to hide	Yes he threw some of them in the river
Moved, buried	Yes
Cut-op and disposed of	Cut off body parts and would then stomp on them
Moved, too home	No
Sentencing	
Date killer arrested	November 20, 1990
Date convicted	October 15, 1992
Sentence	Death
Killer executed?	Yes gunshot to the back of the head
Did killer plead NGRI?	No but everyone thought he was crazy
Was the NGRI plea successful?	n/a
Name and state of prison	
Killer committed suicide?	No
Killer killed in prison?	No
Date of death	February 14, 1994